

week as an assistant manager for the Pearl Ice Cream Parlor at 207 Pearl Street in La Crosse, Wisconsin. The La Crosse community is fortunate to have an old-fashioned ice cream parlor such as Pearl's. I cannot think of a better place to bring my two sons, Johnny and Matthew, on a warm summer evening to enjoy their special homemade ice cream and candy.

Oscar, his son TJ, daughter-in-law Michelle and their daughters always offer a warm greeting to customers that walk through their door. Moreover, for several years I have had the pleasure of living down the block from the ice cream parlor on historic Pearl Street, allowing me to frequently stop over for my favorite homemade chocolate ice cream, a convenience that has put considerable pressure on my belt line.

The work that Oscar, TJ, and Michelle do in the La Crosse community helps make western Wisconsin a special place to live and to raise a family.

In addition to Oscar's work at the ice cream parlor, he has contributed significantly to our country and local businesses in Wisconsin. During World War II, he was a Marine sergeant in the Pacific Theater. After the war, he managed the A & P grocery store in La Crosse for 21 years and then became a real estate agent until 1993.

It is apparent that service to our community has always been important to Oscar Peterslie. He remains active in numerous community activities and services as a member of the La Crosse Masonic Temple, Badger Lodge number 345. He is also widely known as a Shriner's clown, brightening the faces of both young and old as he works the parades with his infamous 3-foot harmonica.

Mr. Speaker, may everyone learn from the service and dedication shown by this noble and honorable man, Oscar Peterslie, Wisconsin's Outstanding Older Worker for 2003. Oscar has made a difference in the La Crosse community and created a chocolate ice cream addiction I do not think I will ever be able to break.

#### REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1078

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1078.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

#### CONGRATULATING THE WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE CHAMPION DETROIT SHOCK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Women's

National Basketball Association Championship team the Detroit Shock. Last night, over 22,000 people came to our stadium in Auburn Hills and watched the women's national basketball team win the championship in beating the two-time champions Los Angeles women's team.

I just want to say how important Title IX is in the rearing of these young women all over America who participate in women's sports and how important it is.

I want to commend Bill Laimbeer, the coach of the team, and for bringing them forward and to bringing another spirit to our team.

So you go get them, women. We are proud of you all over the country. Let us move forward the Women's National Basketball Association that will give young women opportunities to move forward and have the confidence they need to tackle the problems of the world. Congratulations to you, Detroit Shock. We look forward to your next year. You go, girls.

#### UPDATE ON THE MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to address disturbing developments in the Middle East, including setbacks on the Israeli-Palestinian road map, as well as new information on serious efforts to undermine peace and threaten American troops.

Mr. Speaker, despite international efforts to corral his influence, it is no secret that Yasser Arafat continues to exert enormous influence over the Palestinian government. Israel has come to grips with Arafat's ability to derail the peace process and recently issued a decision to take steps to remove Arafat from power.

In response, several Arab Nations yesterday introduced a resolution at the United Nations aimed to condemn Israel for this decision to thwart these efforts. The United States was forced to use its veto power and reject the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, the world must recognize that Arafat is a roadblock to peace and that no peaceful settlement is a possibility between Israelis and Palestinians as long as he remains in power. I commend my government and specifically U.N. Representative John Negraponte for recognizing the threat Arafat poses and the importance of Israel's decision and then vetoing the damaging U.N. resolution.

Unfortunately, while the U.S. diplomatic corps was working yesterday to support Israel and her interests, the Bush administration or at least it has been reported, Mr. Speaker, that the Bush administration announced it would reduce loan guarantees to Israel. This reported decision comes in protest to Israel's decision to build a barrier wall to prevent suicide bombers from

crossing into Israel from the West Bank.

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This is a careless decision by the administration and only undercuts Israel's authority and ability to protect its citizens from suicide attacks.

Furthermore, the loan guarantees will allow Israel to rebuild after years of violence and economic decline and are critical to Israel's future.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the report of this decision by the administration is either not accurate or, if it is, it is a decision that would be reversed. Because I do think it is a tremendous mistake; and I would oppose, and I hope that my colleagues in the Congress would oppose, any cut back in the low guarantees as suggested.

In related Middle East news, evidence has surfaced that Syria is continuing its efforts to incite violence against Israel and is turning a blind eye to Islamic militants who slip across Syrian borders to kill American soldiers in Iraq.

Yesterday, during testimony before a House Committee on International Relations subcommittee, U.S. Under secretary of State for Arms Control John Bolton reiterated concerns that Syria refuses to cooperate with U.S. forces in the Middle East and has continued its support of terrorist groups in pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

However, Under Secretary Bolton stopped short of recommending specific punitive action against Syria. When questioned by Members of the subcommittee, Under secretary Bolton stated that the administration has "no opinion" on legislation introduced here in the House that would place economic sanctions against Syria.

While I commend Under secretary Bolton for his strong statements on Syria, the administration cannot stand by and continue to allow Syria to harbor and support terrorists without economic penalty.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the President to step forward and throw his support behind H.R. 1828, which is a bipartisan bill I have co-sponsored along with Democrats and Republicans, the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act. This legislation holds Syria accountable for its actions and would give the President the tools to impose penalties on Syria unless it corrects its behavior immediately.

The Bush administration must show Syria that there are consequences for supporting terrorism and undermining peace in the region.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I urge the Bush administration to continue to serve as a strong ally to Israel both at the U.N. and here at home. It is critical to our role in the region that the United States maintain its steadfast support of Israel and efforts to protect Israeli citizens from harm and terrorism. And as part of that role, the United States must take decisive action against Nations who seek to corrode peace talks and promote violence